

In Area no.	Form no.
	512
	909

MISSION  
Boston



1. Town Lexington

Address Pelham Road

Name William A. Tower Estate Gate

Present use \_\_\_\_\_

Present owner \_\_\_\_\_

3. Type of structure (check one)

- |            |          |              |       |
|------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| bridge     | _____    | pound        | _____ |
| canal      | _____    | powder house | _____ |
| dam        | _____    | street       | _____ |
| fort       | _____    | tower        | _____ |
| gate       | <u>X</u> | tunnel       | _____ |
| kiln       | _____    | wall         | _____ |
| lighthouse | _____    | windmill     | _____ |
| other      | _____    |              |       |

Indicate  
location in  
buildings,  
Indicate

5. Description

Date second half of nineteenth century

Source Hudson, II, p. 702

Construction material stone and iron

Dimensions 6.6 feet by 8 feet

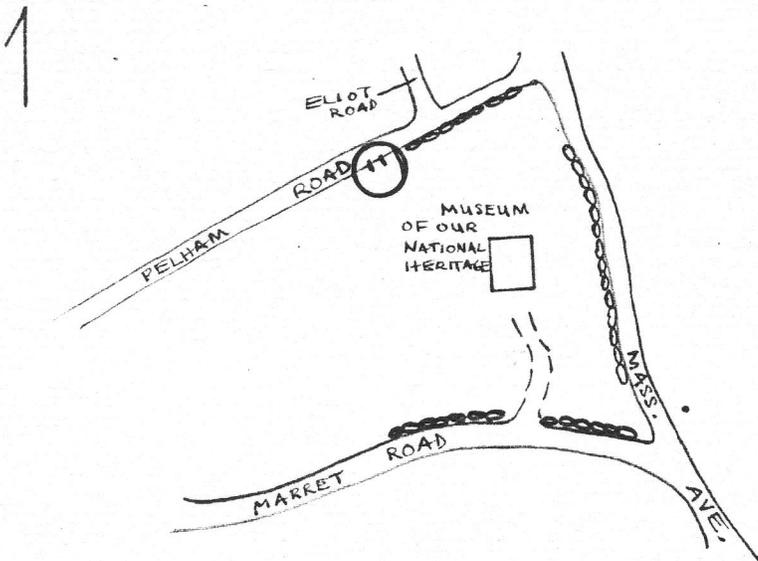
Setting Adjacent to landscaped grounds of the former estate, now a convent.

Condition good

6. Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7.. Original owner (if known) William Augustus Tower

Original use gate

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Historical significance.

Along with Tower Park across Massachusetts Avenue and the still-open grounds of the convent adjacent, this gate is a last remnant of the William Augustus Tower estate singled out for description in Hudson's 1868 History of Lexington:

. . . . A stately building, situated on the high land south of Main Street, it makes a fine appearance, and its cupola commands a prospect of great extent, variety and beauty . . . . A view of the premises, taken on the high grounds near the edifice, affords a scene of the most pleasing combination of nature and art; showing at once elegant buildings, native and artificial forests, and a beautiful pool of water. This dwelling, with all its surroundings, has no superior in the township; and any admirer of natural scenery would find his taste fully gratified by such a location (p. 432).

Tower was a very successful banker and businessman who moved to Lexington in the 1850s. He was a member of the House of Representatives and the Governor's Council, and was the chief marshal at the Lexington Centennial celebration in 1875.

This is the only ornamental gate to survive from the estate, although most of the wall of the estate along Massachusetts Avenue and Pelham Road remains. The ironwork is perhaps the finest to be found in Lexington.

9. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, p. 432. Boston: Wiggin and Lunt, 1868.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 702-703. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.